

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02861 191653Z

43

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1. FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF 8 WORKING GROUP APPOINTED IN ADVISORY CAPACITY OF PREBISCH MET AUGUST 16. WHILE MEETING CALLED AT PERMREP LEVEL, REPRESENTATION INCLUDED ONLY AMBASSADORS IRAN, VENEZUELA, JAPAN AND U S.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SWEDEN, SAUDI ARABIA, ALGERIA AND EC-9 (GERMAN AND FRANCE) WERE BASICALLY MISSION CARE -TAKE OFFICERS.

2. PREBISH USED MEETING TO ANNOUNCE SEVERAL ACTIONS TAKEN BY SYG AND ALSO TO LAY GROUND WORK FOR MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING SEPTEMBER 27. PREBISCH CLEARLY INTENDED MINISTERIAL MEETING TO BE AID PELDGING CONVERENCE FOR DONORS COVERING AID DISBURSEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1975. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF WORKING GROUP

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 02861 191653Z

FOR AUGUST 28 TO MAKE FURTHER PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERS MEETING.

3. PREBISCH INFORMED GROUP HE HAS RECEIVED \$30 MILLION IN CASH FROM VENEZUELA AND HAS SPENT \$6 MILLION TO COVER SHIPPING COSTS FOR 115,000 TONS OF GRAIN FROM EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR BANGLADESH. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED PLANS TO FINANCE PURCHASE OF 21,000 TONS PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER FOR ETHIOPIA AT COST OF \$10 MILLION ON BASIS FAO RECOMMENDATION. HE PLANS REQUEST FAO FOR MORE DETAILED ESTIMATES FERTILIZER NEED FOR REMAINDER OF CALENDAR YEAR FOR WHICH HIS PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF FINANCIAL NEED IS THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. HE FURTHER REPORTED US CONTRIBUTION TO BANGLADESH OF 100,000 TONS OF GRAIN 2,000 TONS OF POWDERED MILK AND 6,000 TONS EDIBLE OILS.
4. HIS DEPUTY DELL SAID ONE-PAGE QUESTIONNAIRE NOW BEING SENT POTENTIAL DONOR GOVTS REQUESTING AID FLOW INFO FOR PROVISIONAL LIST OF MSA'S. REPLY REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 6. OPEC COUNTRIES WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO REPLY TO ADDITIONAL ONE-PAGE QUESTIONNAIRE. GENERALLY RECOGNIZED TIMETABLE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC BUT DICTATED BY SECRETARIAT NEED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS TO COMPILE SUMMARY OF DONOR INTENTIONS IN FORM COMPARABLE FOR PRESENTATION AT MINISTERIAL MEETING.
5. PREBISCH ALSO PROMISED STATE ASSESSMENT OF NEED BY EARLY SEPTEMBER; EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN AMOUNT OF MULTILATERAL AID, MEANING THEREBY HOW MUCH MONEY HE WILL HAVE TO SPEND SUCH AS THE \$100 MILLION PROMISED BY VENEZUELA. JAPAN AND SWEDEN EXPRESSED CONCERN AT TOO RIGID DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY AID, IMPLYING THAT SOME COUNTRIES MAY WISH OBTAIN CREDIT FOR PROJECT AID SUCH AS ROAD CONSTRUCTION. ALSO LOOSER DEFINITION WOULD FACILITATE REPORTING.
6. IRAN QUESTIONED CAPACITY OF SECRETARIAT TO MONITOR MULTILATERAL AID. PARTICULARLY SINCE GOVTS MAY RESIST AND RESENT QUESTIONING OF THEIR EXPENDITURES OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AID BY UN CIVIL SERVANT. HE FELT THIS IS NOT THE CASE VIS-VIS IBRD OR IMF.
7. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFO RE US INTENTIONS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, AMB FERFUSON SAID THIS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME SINCE CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY OF CROP OUTLOOK AND IN PROCESS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON AID LEGISLATION PRECLUDED PROVISION OF FIRM INFO AT THIS TIME.
8. DEL FEELS THAT PREBISCH STAFF UNREALISTICALLY SEEKING TO DEVELOP FIRM AND PRECISE MATRIX OF AID NEEDS BY MSA COUNTRY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 02861 191653Z

AID FLOW ON BILATERAL BASIS, AND GAP TO BE CLOSED THROUGH MULTILATERAL AID, I.E., SYG ACCOUNT SUPPORTED BY DIRECT GOVT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PREBISCH.
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